# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# PANCHAYATI RAJ
# LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3941
ANSWERED ON:10.08.2017
Legal Status of Gram Sabha
Marutharajaa Shri R.P.

**Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:**

(a) whether the Government has accorded any legal status to the Gram Sabha;
(b) if so, the details thereof and the special powers and privileges being enjoyed by the Gram Sabha;
(c) whether the Central Government has received any representation from States on individual Gram Sabhas regarding disqualification of meetings not conducted by the Gram Sabha; and
(d) if so, the details thereof?

## Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PANCHAYATI RAJ
(SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA)

(a) & (b): Article 243 (b) of the Constitution of India provides that "Gram Sabha" means a body consisting of persons registered in the electoral rolls relating to a village comprised within the area of Panchayat at the village level. Article 243A of the Constitution provides that a Gram Sabha may exercise such powers and perform such functions at the village level as the Legislature of a State may, by law, provide.
(c) & (d): 'Panchayats' being 'Local Bodies' is a state subject mandated under Part IX of the Constitution of India. It is for the State/UT Governments to make provisions in their respective Panchayat Raj Laws / Rules regarding the minimum number of Gram Sabha meetings to be held; and the Gram Panchayats are responsible for organizing the Gram Sabhas. The compliance or otherwise of the related instructions is also primarily to be looked into by the concerned authorities of States/UTs.
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